

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life

Held on May 5, 2000

AD 131 10:00am Loyola Campus

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. R. Boncore, Ms J. Calder, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Ms J. Fowler, Mr. P. Gilmore, Mr. C. Jacob, Dr. J. Jans, Ms A. Kerby, Ms S. Navidad, Mr. D. Prejli, Ms T. Ryan, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. P. Taylor, Mr H. Zarins, Mr. W. Curran, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

Delegates: Ms C. Hedrich represented Ms G. Korn. Ms A. Bowen represented Ms K. Hedrich

Absent with Regrets: Mr. MacIver, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. P. Aubé, Mr. D. Prejli, Ms C. Boujaklian

Absent: Mr. J. Di Benedetto, Mr. A. Beedassy,

Guests: Mr. M. DiGrappa, Mr. R. Green, Mr. G. Milton, Mr. K. Pruden, Ms C. Robillard

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Boisvert asked that item 7 (Report from the Chair of the Recreation & Athletics Board) be discussed after item 3 on the agenda. He also asked that Guidelines for funding New Teams be added as 4.5 under "Business Arising" and that CSU Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing be added as 8.1 under New Business. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Ms Navidad and seconded by Ms Ryan.

The Motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the CCSL approved Motion to separate the R&A fee from Student Services as well as the fee increase for R&A had been endorsed by the Board of Governors at their last meeting. It is expected that the fee separation and R&A fee increase will be implemented for the fall 2000 semester.

Dr. Boisvert also took the opportunity to wish Happy Birthday and best wishes on behalf of Council to Mr. Roger Côté.

Dr. Boisvert welcomed Mr. DiGrappa, the new Vice-Rector, Services to Council. Mr. DiGrappa replied he was delighted to be here. He said he has been impressed with the work of Council and he hoped to attend as many meetings as possible. He said that the presence of CCSL at the university was important and he would do all he could to support the work of Council.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2000

Mr. Côté drew Council's attention to the sentence which appeared on page 5, 3rd paragraph, line 17 – "*The Primary focus is not on the user*". He felt the sentence might be misleading and wished to clarify. He asked that the sentence be changed to read as "*The primary focus of two of the assessment teams (Mental Health and Learning Disability) is on process of service delivery rather than the substantive aspect of the service while the other two teams (Student Affairs and Residence Life) are indeed looking at the service offered itself. It was noted that the Mental Health and Learning Disability Teams would provide an opportunity for student/user input relating to their respective mandates.*" It was further noted that the Student Affairs and Residence Life Teams already have students on the teams."

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Jacob, seconded by Ms Drew.

The Motion was carried unanimously

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Ms Kerby confirmed that the Board had met at the end of April for their final meeting of the year. She said the Board was pleased that the Board of Governors had approved the fee separation and increase. She added that a desire to augment the composition of the Board with persons with specific expertise had been expressed by the Board. A position paper will be presented to CCSL on this issue in the fall.

Mr. Zarins said that the Hall of Fame Banquet was very successful. He took the opportunity to express appreciation to the CCSL members who had attended. He also was happy to inform Council that an area of the Loyola playing field had been allocated to People's Potato as a vegetable garden.

Dr. Boisvert suggested that item 4.5 (R&A Funding for New Teams) should be discussed at this time. Council was in agreement

4.5 Recreation & Athletic Funding for New Teams:

Mr. Zarins confirmed that \$15,000 per year for the next three years has been allocated to fund new teams. With respect to guidelines for funding, he circulated the Inter-University Sport Evaluation Guidelines/Parameters which had been previously approved by CCSL. A new team must complete this questionnaire before funds can be allocated. Mr. Jacob asked if a review process should be in place in the event there was an onslaught of requests for funding. Mr. Zarins said at the moment there were only requests from Swimming, Baseball, Golf and Ultimate Frisbee. However, he agreed that if there were numerous requests, a review process would be necessary.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Student Participation in University Governance: As the committee had been asked to address three specific issues arising out of the original report, Mr. Pruden drew Council's attention to the addendum to the Report of the Committee which had been distributed at Council. The three issues were

- 1) A clear definition of "currently registered students" for purposes of application for the bursaries described in the report
- 2) To ensure that recognition for outstanding contribution include both bursaries and tuition waivers
- 3) The selection and make-up of the committee which would award the bursaries; a formula for awarding bursaries; and a formula for establishing a dollar value for the bursaries

Mr. Pruden said there was an omission on page 2, Item 3 with respect to the selection committee. He asked that "non-voting chair" be added to the composition. Council had no objection.

Mr. Jacob drew Council's attention to the phrase under item I ".....recognized by the University as being in good standing academically". He asked that the criteria "good academic standing" be deleted. He felt that as CCSL was not an academic body, the ultimate decision should be left to the discretion of the selection committee. Mr. Taylor felt that the goal of this initiative was to encourage more student participation but not to the detriment of a student's academic record. Dr. Boisvert agreed, adding that **excessive** involvement can contribute to academic failure. Ms Ryan said she would not be comfortable awarding a bursary to a failed student. However, Mr. Jacob felt strongly that the responsibility attached to the student's role as a representative could supercede responsibility with respect to his/her academic performance.

Mr. Green felt the initiative had two main goals; to provide an incentive to get involved and to ensure accessibility to all students. He felt it was important that the criteria for awarding the bursaries also take into consideration those students on financial aid, who are single parents, etc. A lengthy discussion followed on the ways that the bursary application could be weighted based on the needs of our students. Mr. Green suggested that those students who are truly needy could be pinpointed by "means testing". Mr. Côté replied that as the government indicators for financial need are perhaps not the best guidelines, Financial Aid uses the **parameters** of the government means testing but not the same logic or assumptions. He said that Financial Aid could certainly assist with this process if desired.

Dr. Jans, seconded by Mr Ryan moved to accept the addendum to the Report. Mr. Jacob, seconded by Mr. Côté requested the following amendment to the motion.

Be it resolved that the phrase "in good standing academically" be deleted from page 1, item 1, 3rd line of the Addendum to the Report of the Committee on Student Participation in University Governance

The Motion was defeated: 11 opposed 2 favour

Discussion returned to the original motion. Mr. Côté asked if perhaps CCSL needed to define whether the awarding of the bursary was to be **need-based** or **participation-based**. He felt that the motion implies that the selection committee will do that on behalf of CCSL. Mr. Green did not want to add any more "red tape" to the application procedure, but he wanted to ensure that the concerns expressed concerning the financial needs or special circumstances, etc be incorporated into the criteria. Ms Kerby understood the concern, but felt that when students completed the application for a bursary, they would include all those extenuating circumstances. She added that traditionally letters of reference reiterate the various concerns or circumstances that affect each student.

A motion to approve the report as amended and the revised addendum was made by Dr. Jans and seconded by Ms Ryan.

The Motion was carried: favour 9 opposed 1 abstentions 3

Dr. Boisvert confirmed that he would forward the report to the Rector's Cabinet in order to seek a decision and a financial commitment from the university.

4.2 Draft Policy on Demonstrations Update:

Ms Navidad explained that due to time restraints and the unavailability of Ms Mularkie as chair at this time, the committee as mandated by CCSL was unable to meet. However, in the interim, the CSU has tabled a formal response to the University Draft Policy on Demonstrations which outlines the concerns of the CSU. However, the CCSL committee will still meet as soon as possible and submit a report to CCSL in the fall.

Dr. Boisvert acknowledged receipt of the document and thanked the CSU for their input. The issue will be on the agenda of the first meeting of CCSL in the fall.

4.3 Subsidies In Trust Funding Proposal:

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the "Report to CCSL on the Increases to the Subsidies in Trust Account, 2000-2003" that was distributed to Council. He confirmed that the report makes a clear commitment to an allocation of \$188,000 per year for the next three years, which is an increase of \$100,000 per year. There are, however, a series of questions that must be considered by CCSL as a whole with respect to the disbursement of these funds. These concerns are outlined in the distributed report. He suggested that the issue return to CCSL in the fall as pressing business.

Mr. Jacob asked if there was a process to deal with funding requests that may arise over the summer months. Dr. Boisvert said applications could, of course, be received by his office over the summer but would be forwarded to the committee for consideration in the fall. Mr. Jacob asked if some funding could be put aside to deal with emergency requests during the summer. Dr. Boisvert did not feel it was prudent to allocate funds before the expressed concerns have been addressed and a committee has been struck. However, he asked if Council would be comfortable giving him leeway to deal with **emergency** situations. Council was in agreement.

4.4 Report on Student Services Assessment Initiatives:

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that a commitment has been made that each assessment team will have some sort of student input or contribution. This condition must be met before the assessment report can be finalized. Mr. Côté affirmed that the team leaders are all aware of this requirement. Mr. Gilmore asked if the CSU and the GSA could be approached for the recruitment of students for the assessment teams. Ms Drew felt it was important to use students who have sought out the service, rather than our student groups to solicit feedback. Mr. Côté agreed, adding that feedback

from student groups would be appropriate for the Student Affairs Assessment Team. Dr. Boisvert said that it is expected that the Assessment Reports will be presented to CCSL in the fall.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Student Space and Student Centre Presentation

Mr. Jacob explained he was the co-chair of the Student Space Working Group. Through a series of overheads, Mr. Jacob briefly explained the history of student space at Concordia University as well as the exciting plans for the future. The plans include a student centre on both campuses, which would house student office space, food service space and student community spaces as well as "green spaces".

Dr. Shaver expressed concern that there was no faculty representative on the team resource committees and therefore no coordination with the academic life of students.

Dr. Boisvert pointed out that the space plans call for academic student associations to be housed in the area of their department not in the student centre.

Mr. Taylor felt it was important that the decision on who would coordinate this project should be made before the project continues.

Ms Kerby asked what the timeline was. Mr. Green answered that the timeline was contingent on fundraising. Mr. Danis has offered his assistance. Dr. Boisvert also indicated that Student Services would be involved in this aspect.

Mr. Côté hoped that CCSL would be part of the formal consultation process as all the different sectors of university life are represented on CCSL. Mr. Milton agreed that participation by CCSL would be wise and perhaps more prudent when the working group deals with the specifics of the project. At this time, both Dr. Boisvert and Mr. Jacob represent CCSL as co-chairs of the student space-working group.

Ms Calder asked if Student Services would be housed in this complex. Dr. Boisvert answered that that was an open question – 2 different complexes or all housed in one. No decisions have been made.

Mr. Green asked what could be done to solve the existing accessibility problems at the University, in particular Annex T and Annex P. Mr.

DiGrappa responded that the University would look at correcting the existing problems over the summer

Dr. Boisvert thanked Mr. Jacob for a most interesting presentation.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Mr. Jacob felt that the shuttle bus schedule was inadequate during the exam period. He also felt there could be better signage to inform the community of the change in shuttle service. Mr. DiGrappa replied that to his knowledge there has been no change to the shuttle bus exam schedule for several years. He also explained that the university is in the 6th year of a 10-year lease for the shuttle service. Over the past years, the expectations of this service have changed. However, Mr. DiGrappa reiterated that the shuttle service was never intended to be a parallel service to the CTCUM.

Ms Ryan asked for an update on the Mezzanine Project. Dr. Boisvert confirmed that the renovations are planned for this summer and it is expected that we will have a new and improved Mezzanine for the fall. Mr. Pruden, Project Manager, extended an invitation to council to drop by his office to view the plans.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that there is an allocation of \$20,600 in Subsidies in Trust for the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank. In order to effect a transfer of funds, an annual report must be received and approved by CCSL. He drew Council's attention to the report, which was distributed at Council. Ms Calder asked that a link be established between the Off-Campus Housing and the International Students Office to ensure that the specialized needs of the international students are addressed. Ms Navidad agreed that was a good idea. Concern was expressed that the budget figures were only guidelines, information was missing and there were no statistics. Dr. Boisvert asked the CSU to prepare a revised report for 99-2000 as well as to submit a report for 2000-2001. He asked that these reports reflect the concerns expressed by CCSL. He also asked that these reports be tabled for the fall semester. Mr. Taylor agreed that the CSU would provide comprehensive reports addressing all the issues. As the year-end deadline was fast approaching, Dr. Boisvert asked if Council was in agreement that the transfer to the CSU for 1999-2000 should be done as soon as possible. Council had no objection.

9. NEXT MEETING: Fall 2000, Date and Location to be determined. Dr. Boisvert thanked members for their contributions this past year, and wished everyone a good summer.

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Navidad and seconded by Mr. Jacob.

The Motion was carried unanimously